

Our Precious Rainforests

Over half the world's rainforests have already been destroyed. Every second, an area of rainforest the size of a football pitch is being destroyed.

The biggest reason for this destruction is farming. Trees are being cut down to clear land to grow crops or raise cattle.

Trees are also cut down for their wood. The wood is mainly used in construction, but large amounts are also used to make furniture and paper.

Why is this a problem? Rainforests are home to about half of the world's plant and animal species. Over 16,000 tree species can be found in the Amazon rainforest. Some of these species are unique to this area, so if we lose them we lose the species forever. Destroying rainforests also threatens the animals that live amongst the trees. Many animals are dying because their habitats are being completely destroyed.

Destroying the rainforests also damages our environment. The plants and trees in the rainforests produce around one fifth of the oxygen that humans need to breathe. They also take in carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that causes global warming. When we cut trees down, there are fewer trees to absorb this gas. This makes temperatures around the world warmer. Global warming is already starting to have a negative impact on humans around the planet.

Luckily there are some things we can all do to help. Look out for the 'Rainforest Alliance' or 'Fair Trade' logo when you're doing your shopping. You may see this on products such as bananas, chocolate and shampoo. Products with these logos have been produced without damaging the rainforest.

There are also lots of charities that work to protect rainforests. Donating to these charities can help them to save the rainforests.



Questions

02

- 1 Why does the author compare the size of the rainforests that are destroyed every second to the size of a football pitch?

- ☐ They are both large and green.
- ☐ The rainforest is being turned into lots of football pitches.
- ☐ Rainforests look like football pitches when they have been destroyed.
- ☐ Most people can imagine the size of a football pitch so it makes it easier to understand.

- 2 What is the definition of the word 'crops' used in this sentence?

Trees are being cut down to clear land to grow **crops** or raise cattle.

- ☐ make something smaller by trimming it
- ☐ wood used in construction or furniture making
- ☐ sticks used to help farmers control their animals
- ☐ plants such as vegetables or grain grown in large amounts on a farm

- 3 What is meant by 'raise cattle'?

- ☐ to grow plants
- ☐ to produce vegetables
- ☐ to grow new types of trees
- ☐ to farm cows or similar animals

- 4 What is the main reason why rainforests are being destroyed?

- ☐ farming
- ☐ construction
- ☐ making furniture
- ☐ football

- 5 Which word in paragraph five means the natural homes or environments of animals?

6 Which fact is true about the unique species in the Amazon Rainforest?

- ☐ Each plant looks completely different.
- ☐ None of the plants in the Amazon rainforest are the same.
- ☐ They are only found in the Amazon Rainforest.
- ☐ The species really stand out.

7 What fraction of oxygen is produced by the plants and trees in the rainforest?

- ☐ one tenth
- ☐ one fifth
- ☐ one half
- ☐ one quarter

8 Which gas do trees absorb (take in)?

- ☐ oxygen
- ☐ greenhouse gas
- ☐ methane
- ☐ carbon dioxide

9 Name just one of the logos that you may find on food that has been produced without damaging the rainforest.

10 Which of these things can you do to help protect the rainforest?

- ☐ Stop cutting down trees.
- ☐ Plant trees in your garden.
- ☐ Buy more bananas, chocolate and tea.
- ☐ Donate to a charity that protects the rainforest.

Score:

Answers

A

- 1** Why does the author compare the size of the rainforests that are destroyed every second to the size of a football pitch? ☒ Most people can imagine the size of a football pitch so it makes it easier to understand.
- 2** What is the definition of the word 'crops' used in this sentence? ☒ plants such as vegetables or grain grown in large amounts on a farm
- Trees are being cut down to clear land to grow crops or raise cattle.
- 3** What is meant by 'raise cattle'? ☒ to farm cows or similar animals
- 4** What is the main reason why rainforests are being destroyed? ☒ farming
- 5** Which word in the paragraph above means the natural homes or environments of animals? habitats
- 6** Which fact is true about the unique species in the Amazon Rainforest? ☒ They are only found in the Amazon Rainforest.
- 7** What fraction of oxygen is produced by the plants and trees in the rainforest? ☒ one fifth
- 8** Which gas do trees absorb (take in)? ☒ carbon dioxide
- 9** Name just one of the logos that you may find on food that has been produced without damaging the rainforest. Rainforest Alliance or Fair Trade
- 10** Which of these things can you do to help protect the rainforest? ☒ Donate to a charity that protects the rainforest.